

135
136
By the Queene.

A proclamation of the Queenes Maiesties pardon graunted to certaine of her subiectes vppon the west borders, hauyng offended by Leonard Dacres abusyng of them, in a rebellion lately stirred by him.



He Queenes Maiestie beyng informed, that in a late rebellion attempted by Leonard Dacres in Cumberlande, within the west wardenry vppon the frontiers of Scotland, the great number of her subiectes that came to hym, were abused and falsely allured to ayde him, partly for defence of his possession which he had gotten of certaine houses wherunto he pretended title, though against the order of the lawes of the Realme, and partly to withstand certaine incursions that he vntreuely pretended, shoulde be shortly made into those borders by the outlawes of Scotland, and the Rebelles lately fled out of Englande: And nowe sence the sayde Leonarde Dacres contrary to his false perswasions, hath manifestly declared him selfe by his traytorous actes, to haue assembled this power only to make a newe rebellion against her Maiestie and the crowne of this Realme: The multitude of her sayd pooze subiectes which were by such false and traytorous deuices allured to come to him in force and armes, without knowledge of his traytorous intentes, haue most lamentably acknowledged and confessed their errors, and with clamors and outcrynges haue accursed the sayde Leonarde Dacres, as a most wicked and pernicious traytor, making most pittifull intercessions, by meanes of her Maiesties right trusty and welbeloned cosyn the Lorde of Hunsdon, gouernour of the towne of Barwicke, and Lorde warden of the east marches towarde Scotlande, that they might be receaued to her Maiesties mercie, and haue their pardons, with full intent to be hereafter during their liues, moze carefull how to be abused, in like maner to assemble and arme themselves vpon prouocation of any priuate subject, hauyng no office nor auctoritie vnder her Maiestie, as in deede the sayde Leonarde Dacres had none. Herevpon her Maiestie beyng specially mouued by the information of her sayde cosyn the Lord of Hunsdon, and also of the Lorde Scroope her warden vpon the same west borders, aswell of the abuse and errors of her sayde subiectes, as of their repentance (amongst whom, to her Maiesties great comfort, no gentleman of blood and estimation hath ben as yet founde to haue offended) hath ben pleased to extende her mercie in this sort following. That it shalbe lesfull for all her sayd subiectes, which in this rebellion were in company with the sayde Leonarde Dacres, or any wyse attendyng or assysting hym the xix. and xx. of the last moneth of february, to returne to their habitations and dwellyng places, and immediatly assoone as they may, to geue knowledge to the Lorde warden of the sayde west marches, or to the Sheryffe of any of the shyres where their habitations were before their offences, or to such inferiour officers as they shall appoint for that purpose. And therevpon her Maiestie wyllith and commaundeth, that no maner of officer or other person, shall molest them in their persons, goods, chattelles, or landes, for their assysting and aydyng of the sayde Leonard Dacres in his sayde treason: so as euery such person after notice geuen to the sayde Lorde warden, Sheryffe, or their ministers, shall by the direction of them, submit them selues to such orders as by them shalbe notified, for recognition of their offences: and so consequently euery of them shall haue and enioy theyr full pardons from her Maiestie, whensoever they shall sue for the same in the Chauncery.

Provided alwayes that this her Maiesties pardon shall not extende by any construction to the sayde Leonarde Dacres, nor any of his brethren, nor to any that dyd before offende in the late rebellion with the two Carles of Northumberlande & Westmerlande, nor to any Iustices of Peace, Constables, Ryues, Bayliffes of Townes, or lande Seriantes: nor to any that at the publication of this Proclamation shalbe in pryson deteyned for this rebellion: nor to any persons that shall be by the Lorde warden of the west borders, thought for their wyllfull and contemptuous behauiour in this rebellion, or for lacke of their due repentance unworthy of this mercy: so as the names of the sayde persons so to be thought unworthy, be in wrytyng set vp to be read & openly scene at the market crosse of Carlisle, or other market townes in the sayde wardenry, the day of the publication hereof.

And because the unworthynesse of the sayde traytour Leonard Dacres, may in some part the more appeare to suche as be ignoraunt thereof, her Maiestie is content it be vnderstande, that as she hath ben by the goodnesse of her nature abused by the two late Charles of Northumberlande and Westmerlande, so was she euen in the beginning of the saide Charles rebellion contented, vpon sute made by the sayde Leonarde Dacres (notwithstanding he had heard that he had ben the sommer before secretlye conuersant with the sayde Charles) to admit him at Windsor to her presence: where being priuately with her selfe, he made offers of his seruice agaynst the sayde Charles, beyng then proclaymed traytors, and most earnestly requested her Maiestie therein to commit trust to hym, as to a most faithfull subiect and seruant, vling many kind of speeches, not without assuraunces by othes to prouoke her Maiestie not onely to offer hym her sauour, but to commit to hym charge to repayre into the place where he nowe committed this treason, and there to ioyne with her warden in seruice agaynst the sayde rebelles. According whereunto he departed in all haste, and as hath ben since discovered to her Maiestie, dyd then immediatly in his iourney comming neere the rebels, renewe his former conspiracies by secret comforting the sayde rebels, with promises of ayde of men and money, vling for more credite the names of princes Ambassadors: and after that conspired with them by letters and messages, vnder colour of gathering of force for seruice of her Maiestie, to haue traytorously destroyed the lorde Scroope in the felde, & to haue taken the citie and castle of Carlisle, & there to haue murdered the byshop. And not beyng able to compasse the same as he desired, seeing the two Charles forced to flee the Realme, he sent messages and letters of his owne hand (which are extant to be seene) to certayne in Scotlande, requiring fauour to be shewed to the sayd Charles, and promising (as soone as he coulde finde tyme) to shew him selfe an open freende to them, & so did he manifestly & traitorously perforce the same, by fortifying the castle of Hawarde with men, munition, and bittaille, by assemblyng the Queenes Maiesties subiectes with firing of Beacons, and in the ende finding his power increased with a great number of Scottes, did enter into the playne felde, agaynst the Queenes Maiesties power vnder the conduct of the lorde of Hunsdon, which when he woulde haue vanquished (as he certainly accompted that he myght by reason of his great numbers) he was forced like a traitor to flee, and all his owne power vanquished by the iustice of Almighty God, assistyng her Maiesties wardens of her East & Middle marches, being in number farre inferior, but in the goodnes of the cause farre superior, and of them through Gods goodnes very few hurt: whereof it is good for all persons to take example, and to beware howe they shall follow the lewd perswasions of any other in causes vniust agaynst their soueraigne Lady, beyng by Almighty God (as is manifestly seene) ordeyned to be the superior and vanquisher of all wicked persons, and their attemptes.

Gruen at the Queenes Maiesties honoz of Hampton court the fourth day of Marche. 1569.
in the twelfth yere of her Maiesties reigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regis Maiestatis.